DARK HORSE COMICS

FRANK Miller GEOF Darrow

HARD Boiled™

COLORS BY CLAUDE Legris

#2 $5.95 $6.95 Canada

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Giant Big Wally

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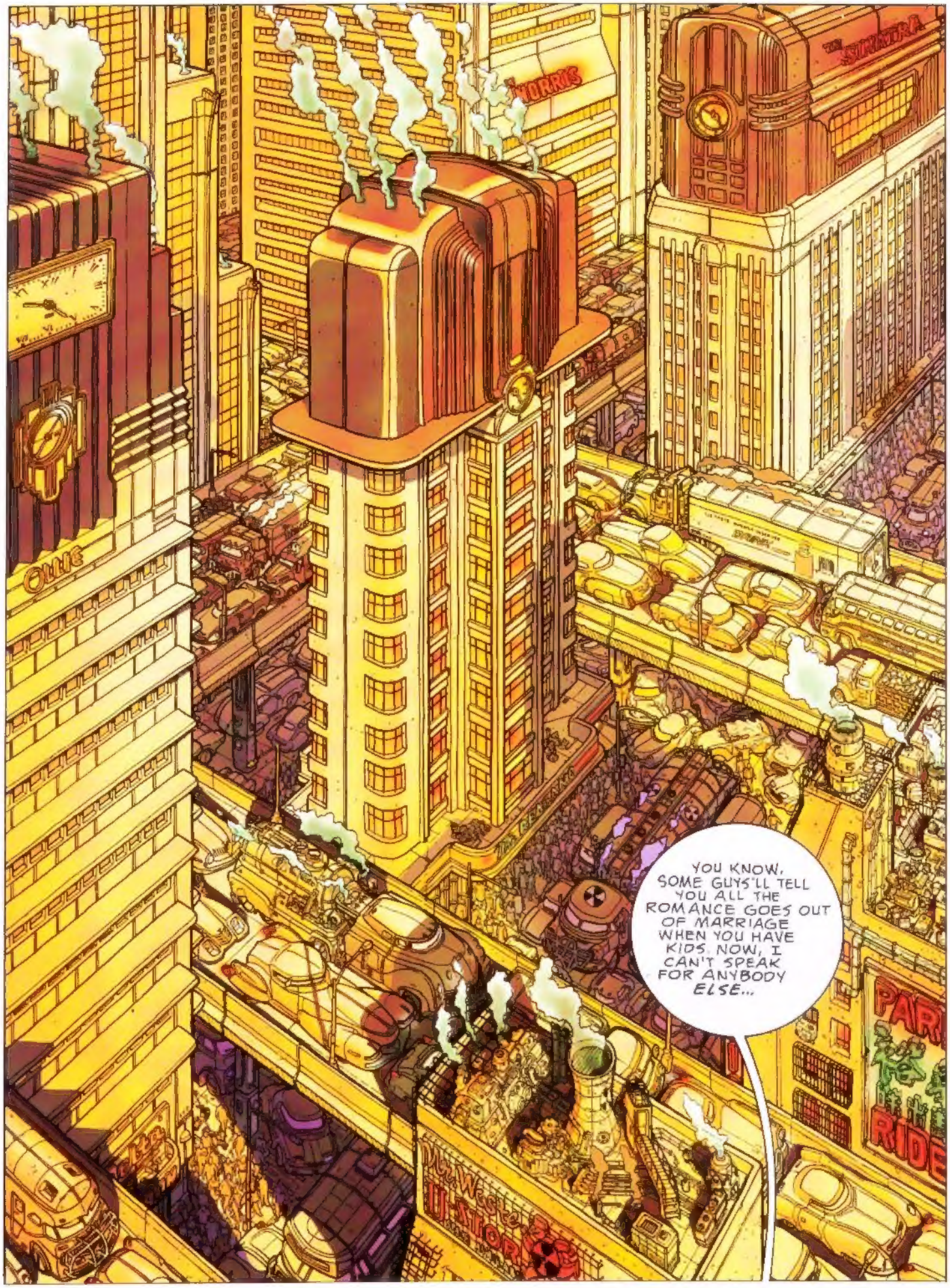
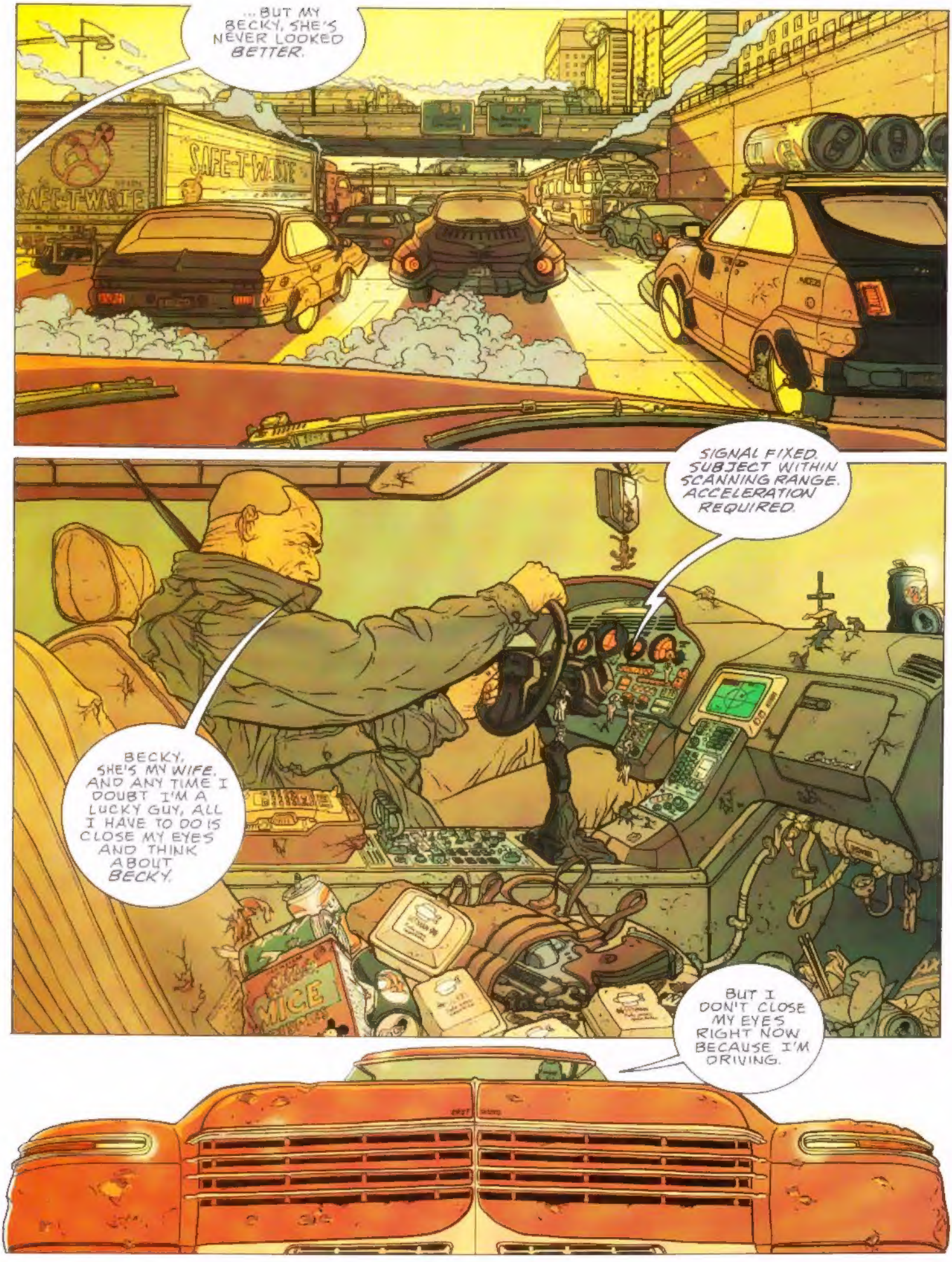
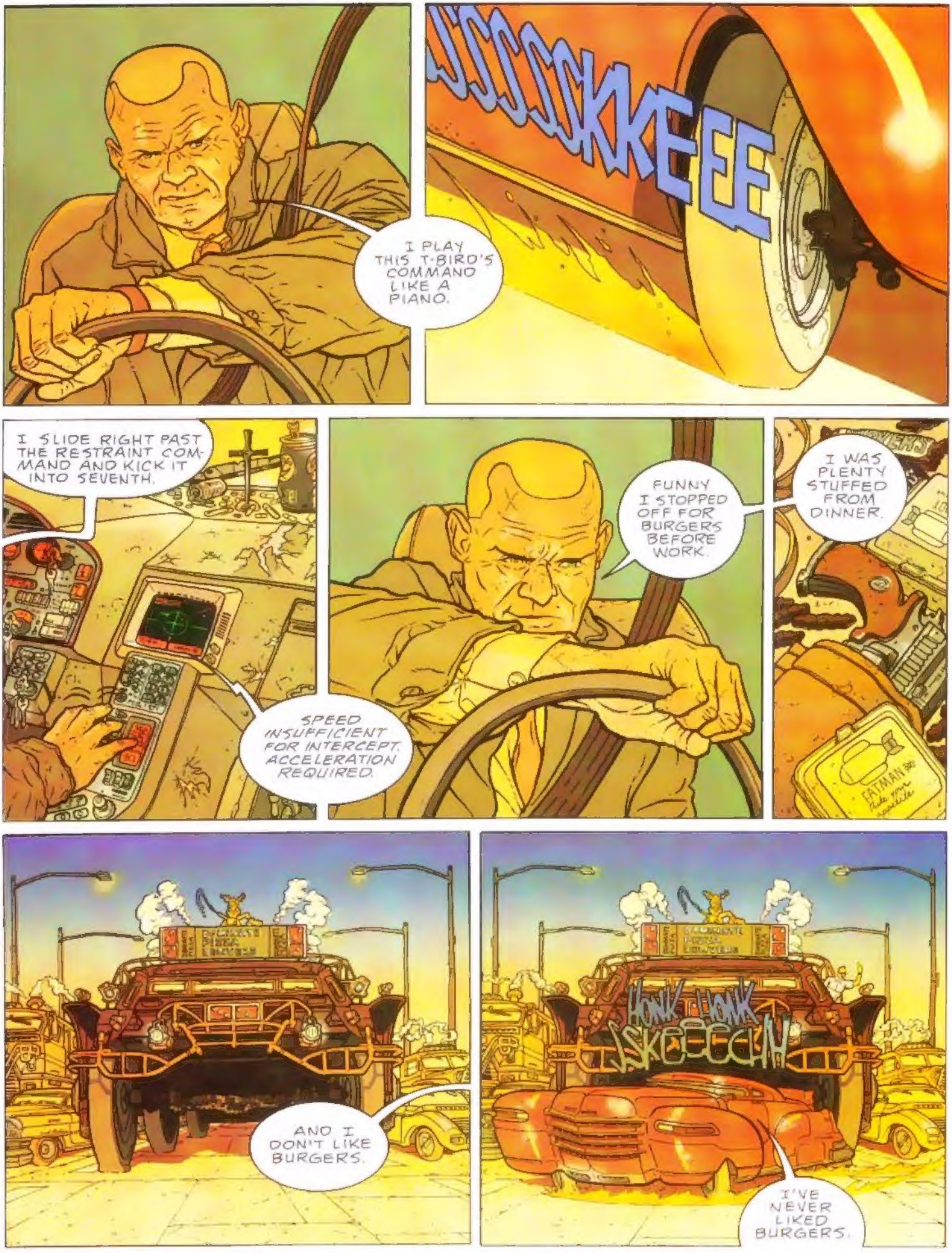
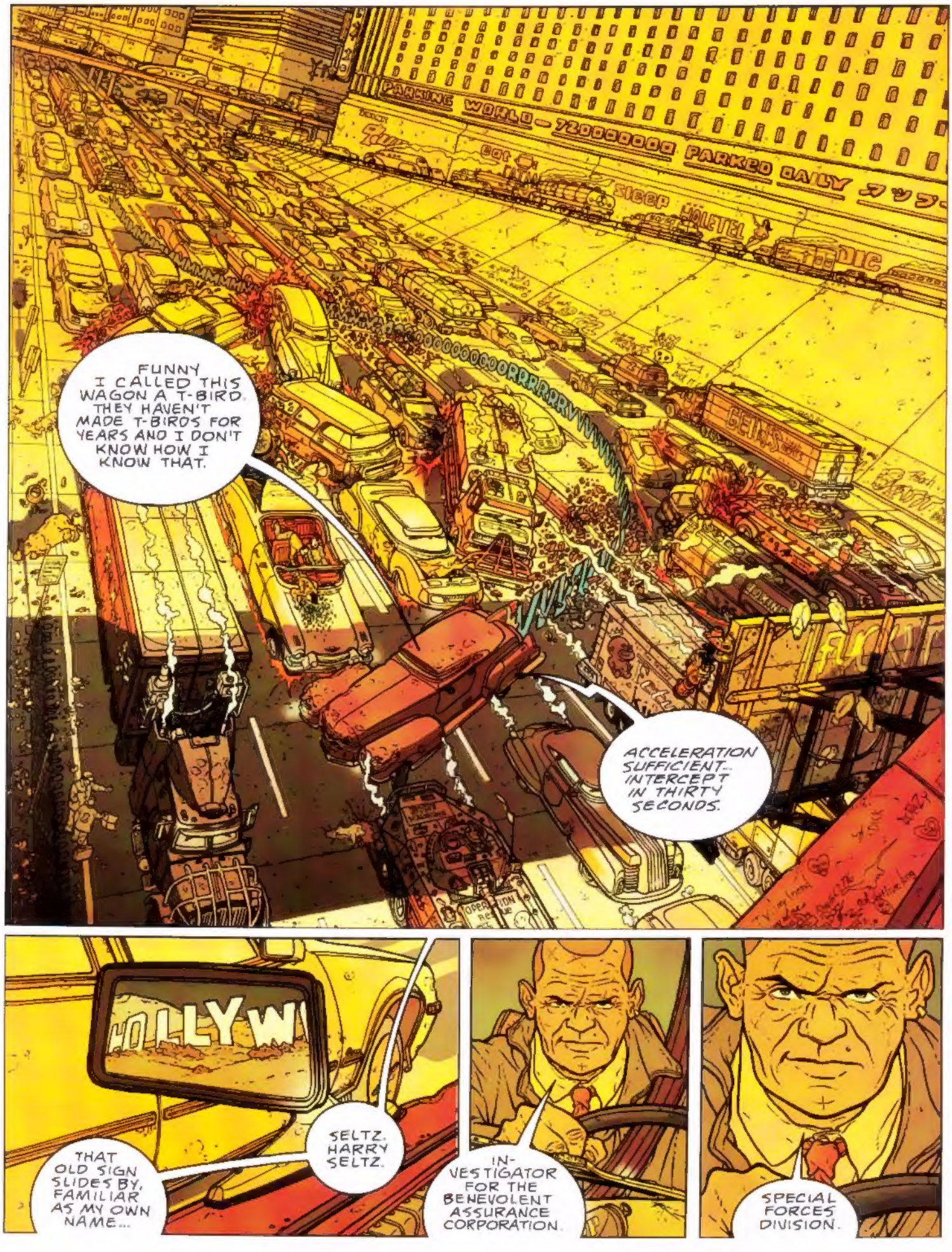
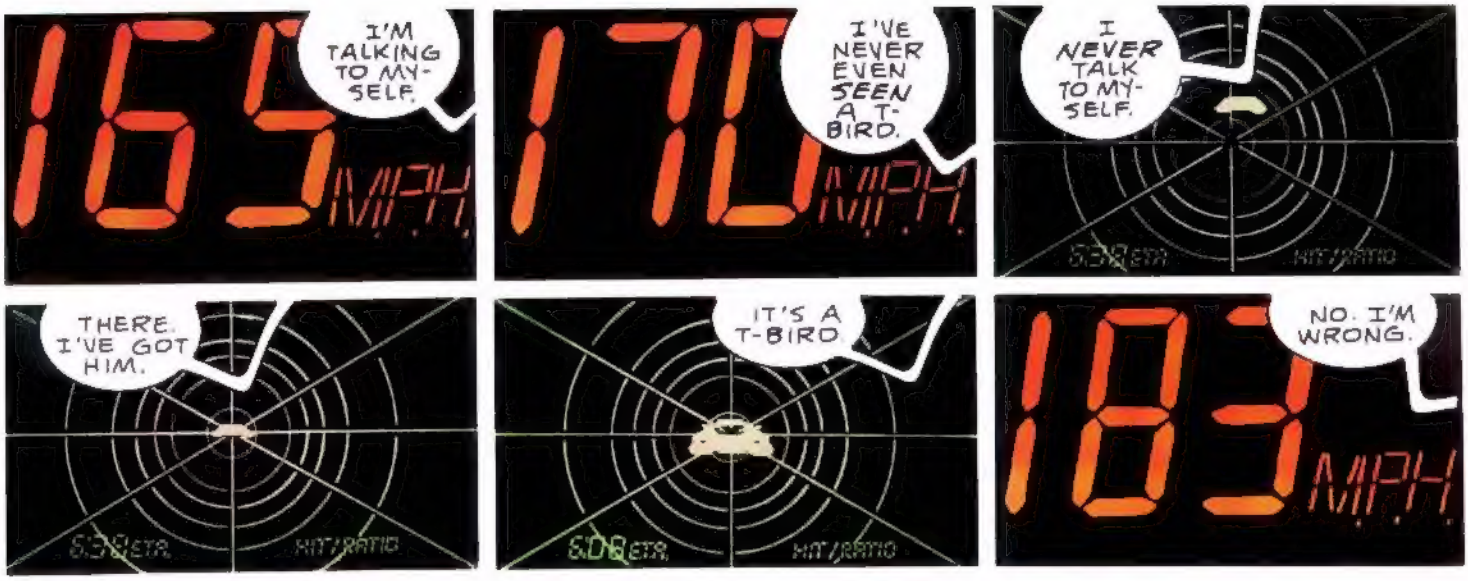
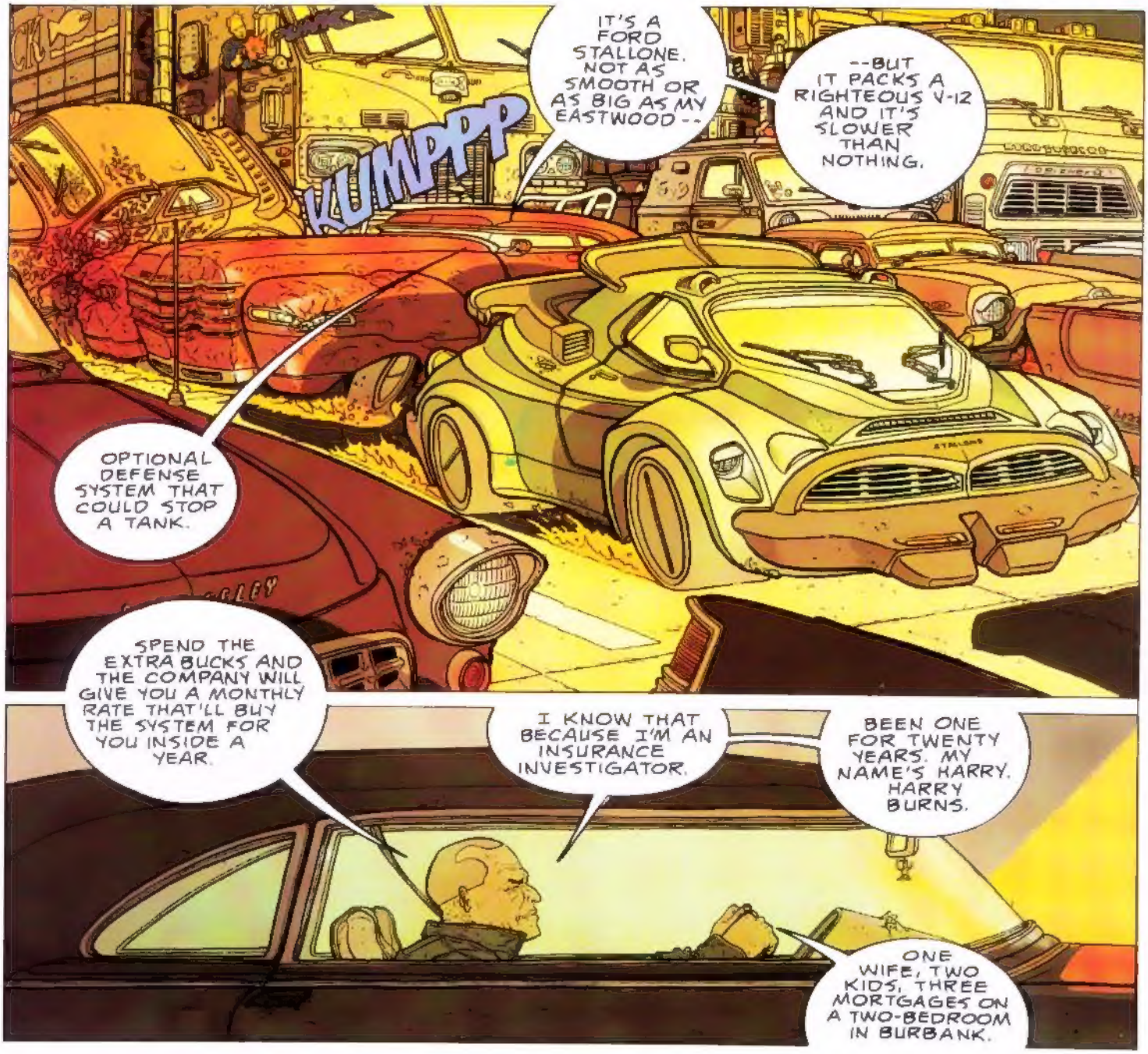

YOU KNOW, SOME GUYS'LL TELL YOU ALL THE ROMANCE GOES OUT OF MARRIAGE WHEN YOU HAVE KIDS. NOW, I CAN'T SPEAK FOR ANYBODY ELSE...


...BUT MY BECKY, SHE'S NEVER LOOKED BETTER.
SAFE-T-WASTE
SIGNAL FIXED. SUBJECT WITHIN SCANNING RANGE. ACCELERATION REQUIRED.
BECKY, SHE'S MY WIFE. AND ANY TIME I DOUBT I'M A LUCKY GUY, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CLOSE MY EYES AND THINK ABOUT BECKY.
MICE
BUT I DON'T CLOSE MY EYES RIGHT NOW BECAUSE I'M DRIVING.


I PLAY THIS T-BIRD'S COMMAND LIKE A PIANO.
I SLIDE RIGHT PAST THE RESTRAINT COMMAND AND KICK IT INTO SEVENTH.
SPEED INSUFFICIENT FOR INTERCEPT. ACCELERATION REQUIRED.
FUNNY I STOPPED OFF FOR BURGERS BEFORE WORK.
I WAS PLENTY STUFFED FROM DINNER.
AND I DON'T LIKE BURGERS.
HONK HONK
I'VE NEVER LIKED BURGERS.

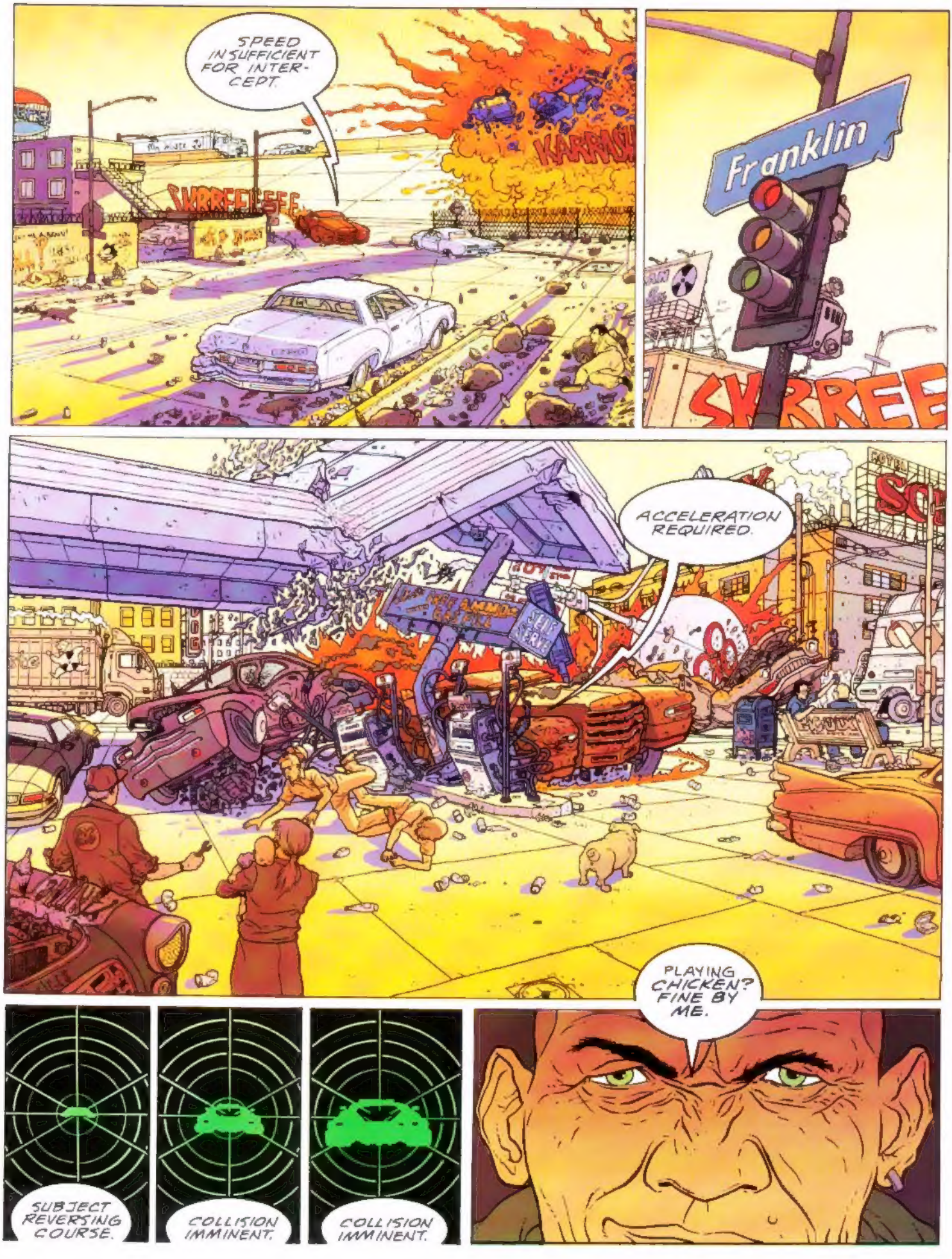

PARKING WORLD — 72000000 PARKED DAILY
SLEEP HOTEL
FUNNY I CALLED THIS WAGON A T-BIRD. THEY HAVEN'T MADE T-BIRDS FOR YEARS AND I DON'T KNOW HOW I KNOW THAT.
ACCELERATION SUFFICIENT... INTERCEPT IN THIRTY SECONDS.
THAT OLD SIGN SLIDES BY, FAMILIAR AS MY OWN NAME...
SELTZ. HARRY SELTZ.
INVESTIGATOR FOR THE BENEVOLENT ASSURANCE CORPORATION.
SPECIAL FORCES DIVISION.

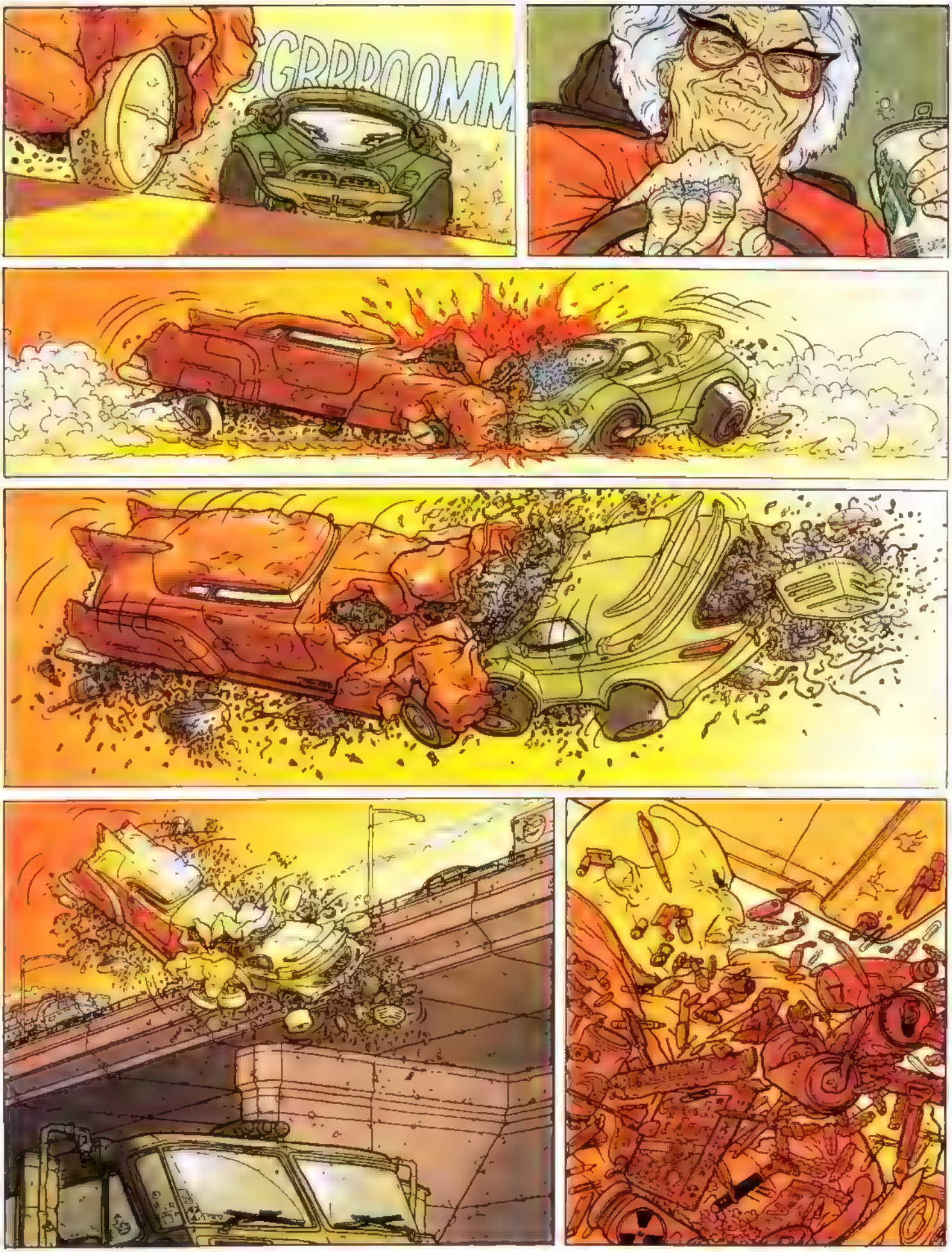

165 M.P.H.
I'M TALKING TO MYSELF.
170 M.P.H.
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN A T-BIRD.
I NEVER TALK TO MYSELF.
THERE. I'VE GOT HIM.
IT'S A T-BIRD.
183 M.P.H.
NO. I'M WRONG.

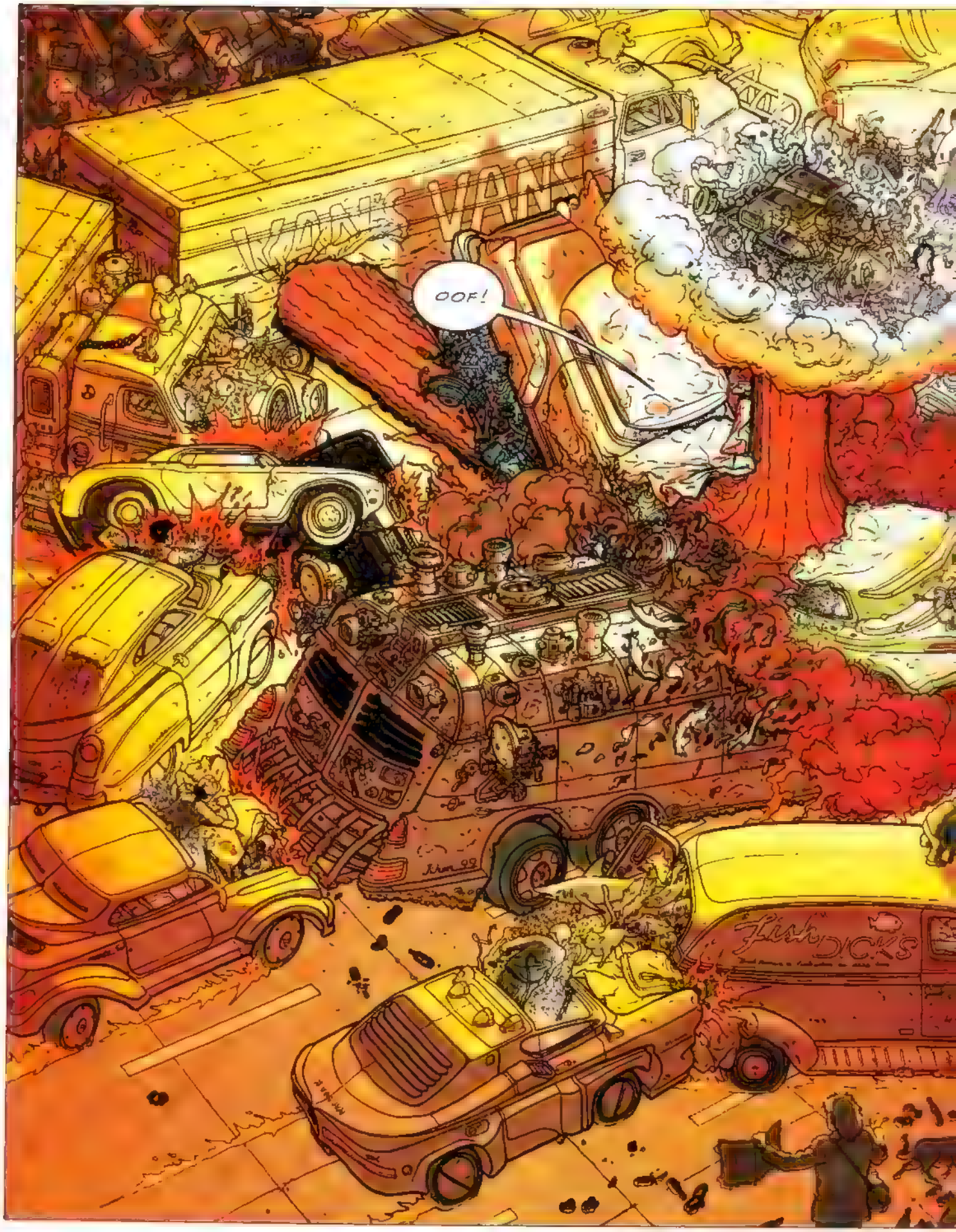

KUMPPPP
IT'S A FORD STALLONE. NOT AS SMOOTH OR AS BIG AS MY EASTWOOD --
--BUT IT PACKS A RIGHTEOUS V-12 AND IT'S SLOWER THAN NOTHING.
OPTIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEM THAT COULD STOP A TANK.
SPEND THE EXTRA BUCKS AND THE COMPANY WILL GIVE YOU A MONTHLY RATE THAT'LL BUY THE SYSTEM FOR YOU INSIDE A YEAR.
I KNOW THAT BECAUSE I'M AN INSURANCE INVESTIGATOR.
BEEN ONE FOR TWENTY YEARS. MY NAME'S HARRY. HARRY BURNS.
ONE WIFE, TWO KIDS, THREE MORTGAGES ON A TWO-BEDROOM IN BURBANK.

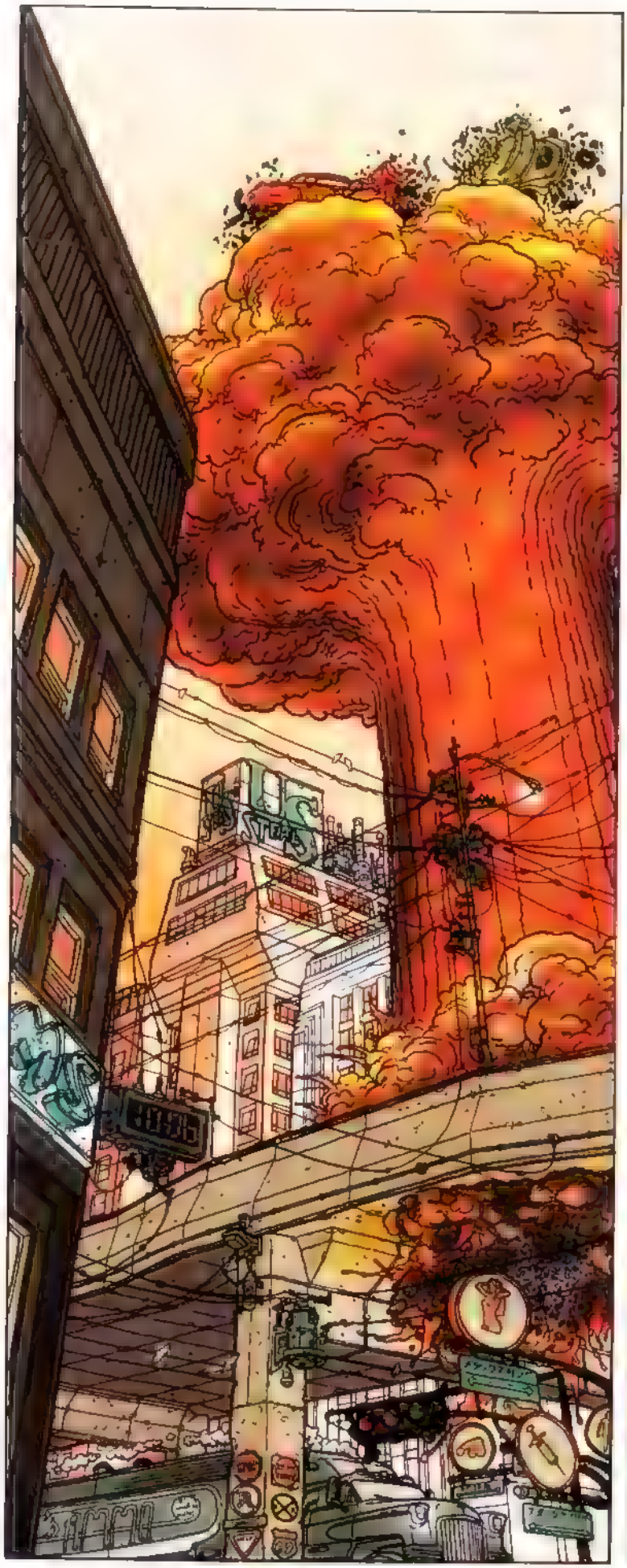
IT'S HIM. HE'S RIGHT BEHIND US.
I KNEW BARBARA WOULDN'T LET US DOWN. REMEMBER --ACT KIDNAPPED.
RIGHT. RIGHT...
EEEEEE
OH, NUTS.
IT'S THE COPS.

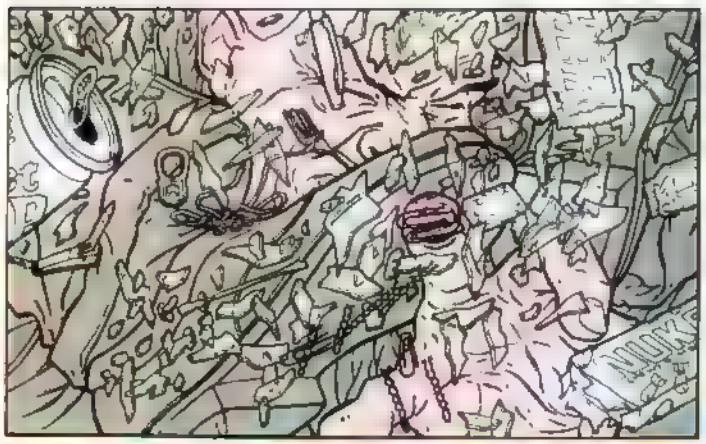
SPUNK
TAK
POWW
SSKKreeCCHH
THAT WAS CLOSE.


SPEED INSUFFICIENT FOR INTER-CEPT.
Franklin
ACCELERATION REQUIRED.
PLAYING CHICKEN? FINE BY ME.
SUBJECT REVERSING COURSE.
COLLISION IMMINENT.
COLLISION IMMINENT.

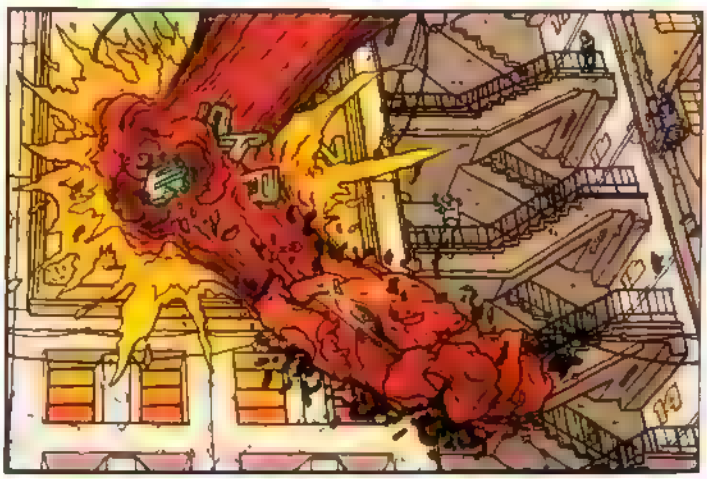

GRRROOMM

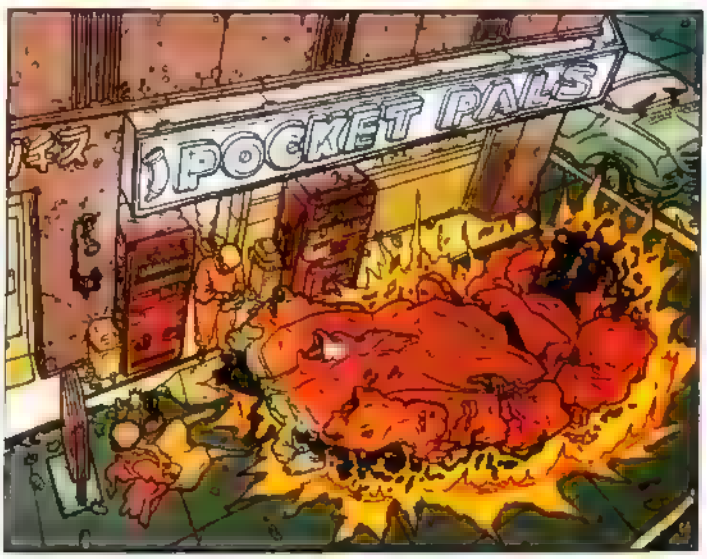

OOF!
FISH DICK'S





EASTERN
Loved for gentleness



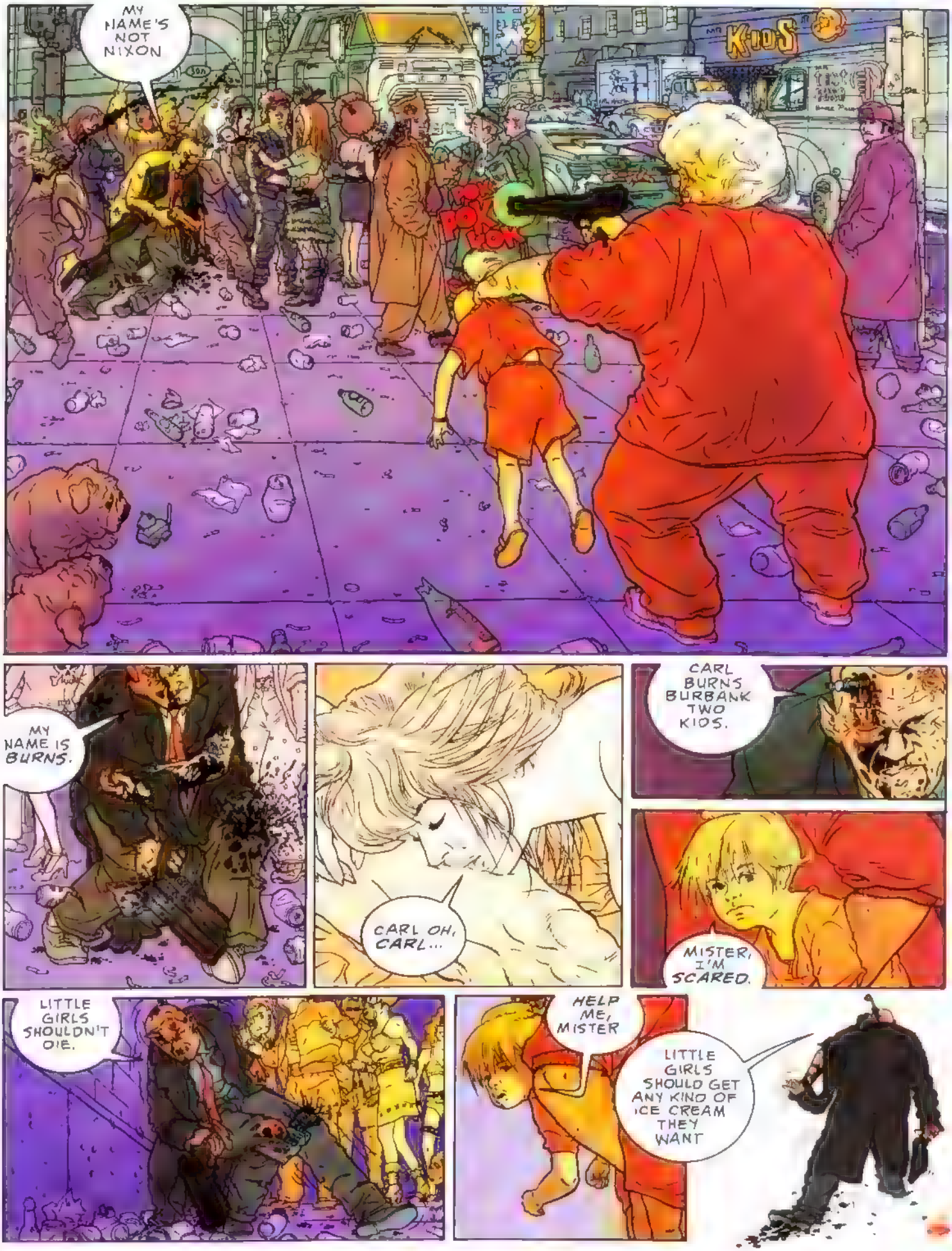

POCKET PALS

THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
PUSSY!
VIDEO
Meat Der
RRRRENNCHH!

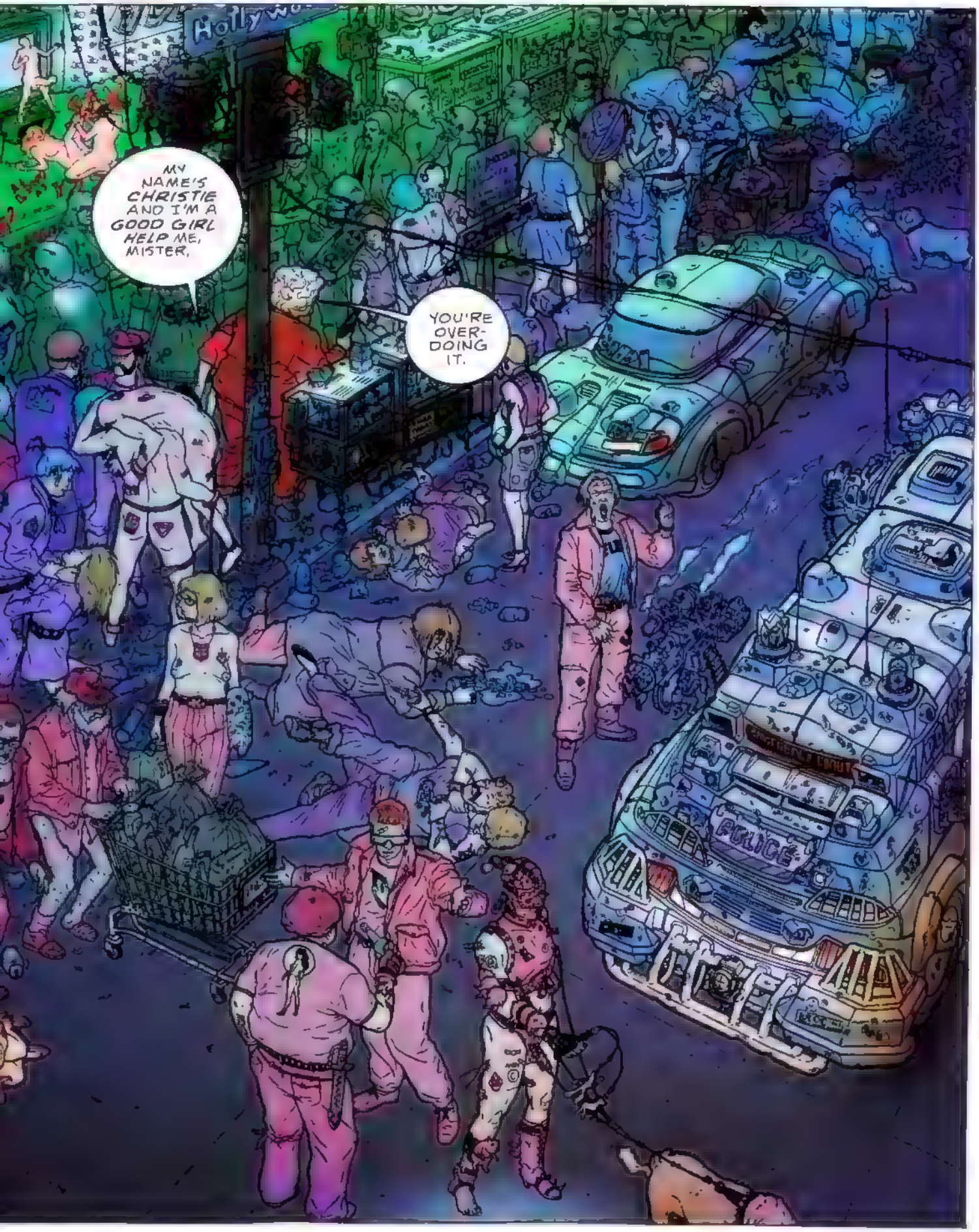
MA'AM, THE BENEVOLENT ASSURANCE CORPORATION CHARGES YOU WITH FILING A FALSE CLAIM.
WE DEMAND CERTAIN PAPERS OF DISCLOSURE.
DIGA

POC
PO
POC

KINK
YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH, NIXON
EVER WONDER WHY?

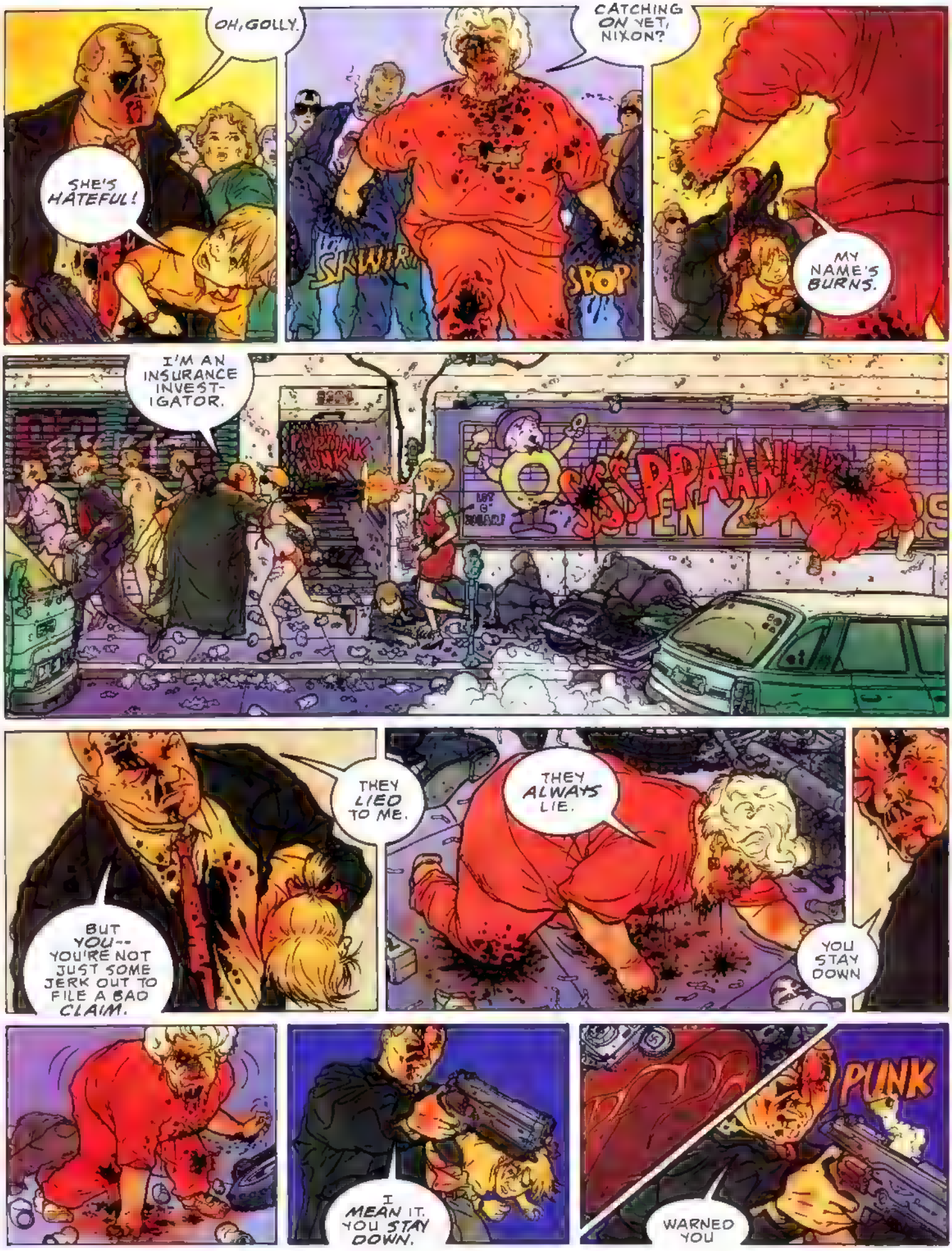

MY NAME'S NOT NIXON
KIDS
POW POW POW
MY NAME IS BURNS.
CARL OH, CARL...
CARL BURNS BURBANK TWO KIDS.
MISTER, I'M SCARED.
LITTLE GIRLS SHOULDN'T DIE.
HELP ME, MISTER
LITTLE GIRLS SHOULD GET ANY KIND OF ICE CREAM THEY WANT

Vine
ADULT VIDEO
EVEN IF IT'S PISTACHIO


MY NAME'S CHRISTIE AND I'M A GOOD GIRL HELP ME, MISTER,
YOU'RE OVER-DOING IT.
POLICE

Le Matic
ADULT
SEX Show
Bondage
DONKEY
SEX
PUNK
PUNKK

HEY! OUR BIKES!
OOF!
DON'T WORRY, CHRISTIE.
EVERY-THING'LL BE FINE.
OUR BIKES!
YOU OLD SO-AND-SO!
WE'LL SHOW YOU!
SHEK
SHUK
SHUK
YIKES!
KUKK


OH, GOLLY.
SHE'S HATEFUL!
CATCHING ON YET, NIXON?
SKWIR
SPOP
MY NAME'S BURNS.
I'M AN INSURANCE INVEST-IGATOR.
PUNK
PUNK
THEY LIED TO ME.
BUT YOU-- YOU'RE NOT JUST SOME JERK OUT TO FILE A BAD CLAIM.
THEY ALWAYS LIE.
YOU STAY DOWN
I MEAN IT. YOU STAY DOWN.
PUNK
WARNED YOU

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN THERE'S A DOUGHNUT SHOP BACK THERE. THAT'LL BRING COPS.

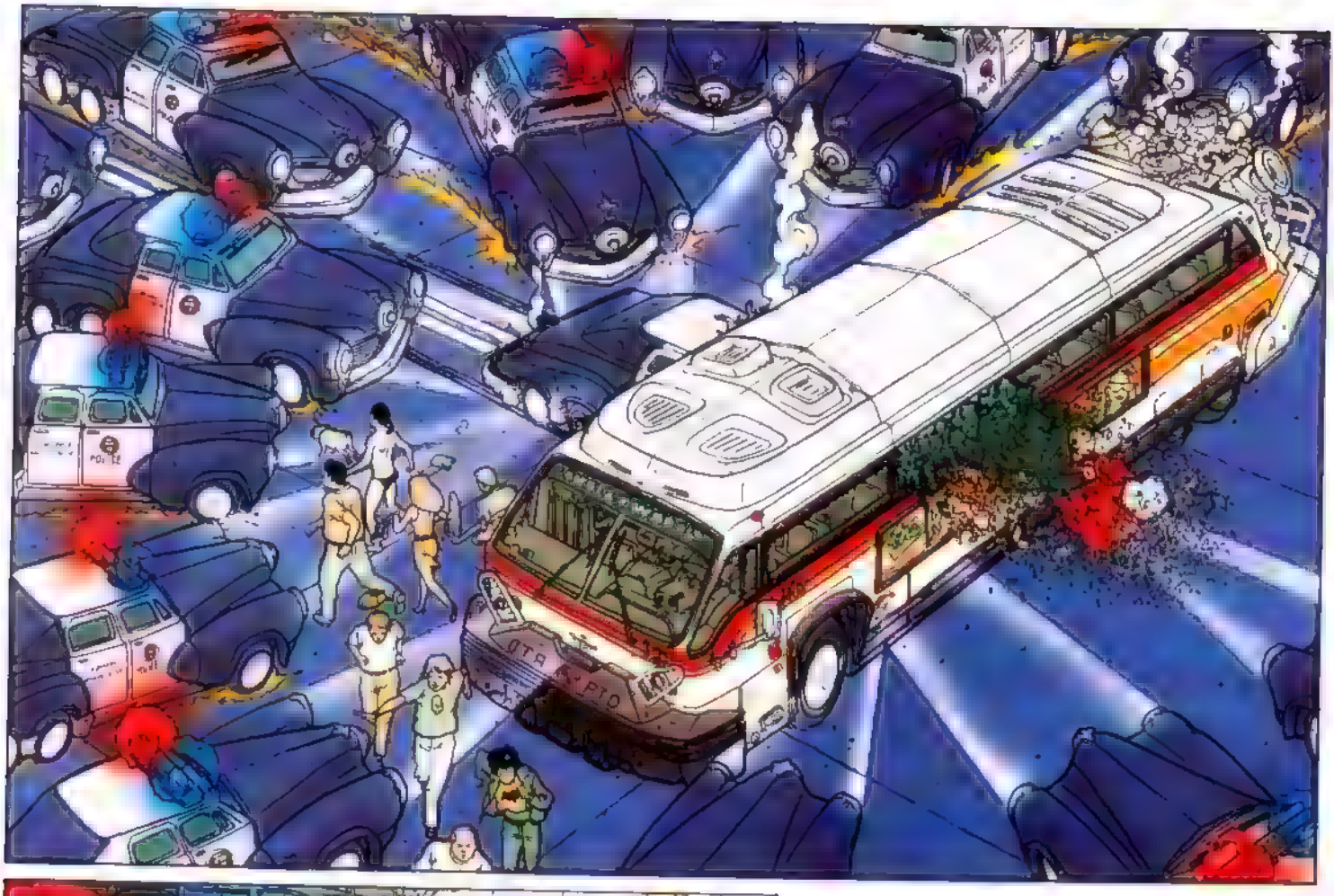
SSSKRRRDDEECCHH
CALFAIT
POLICE
EEEEEEEEE
WRENCHH
PUNCHH

MAD PUSSY!!!
AD 250
SEX-O
RAMA
KRUNK
POLICE

BURGER KING
SKREKK
KRMP
SKEECH
AAK!

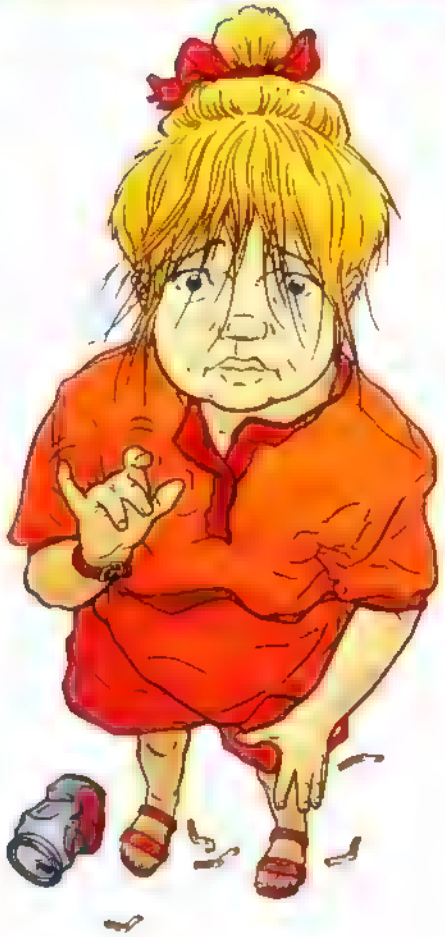
CHRISTIE --GET MY GUN--
AWW...
SKEECH
KROOM
WUMP

GAAA
SKREEEEEE
EEKRUPP
HOLLYWOOD
POLICE
SKASH

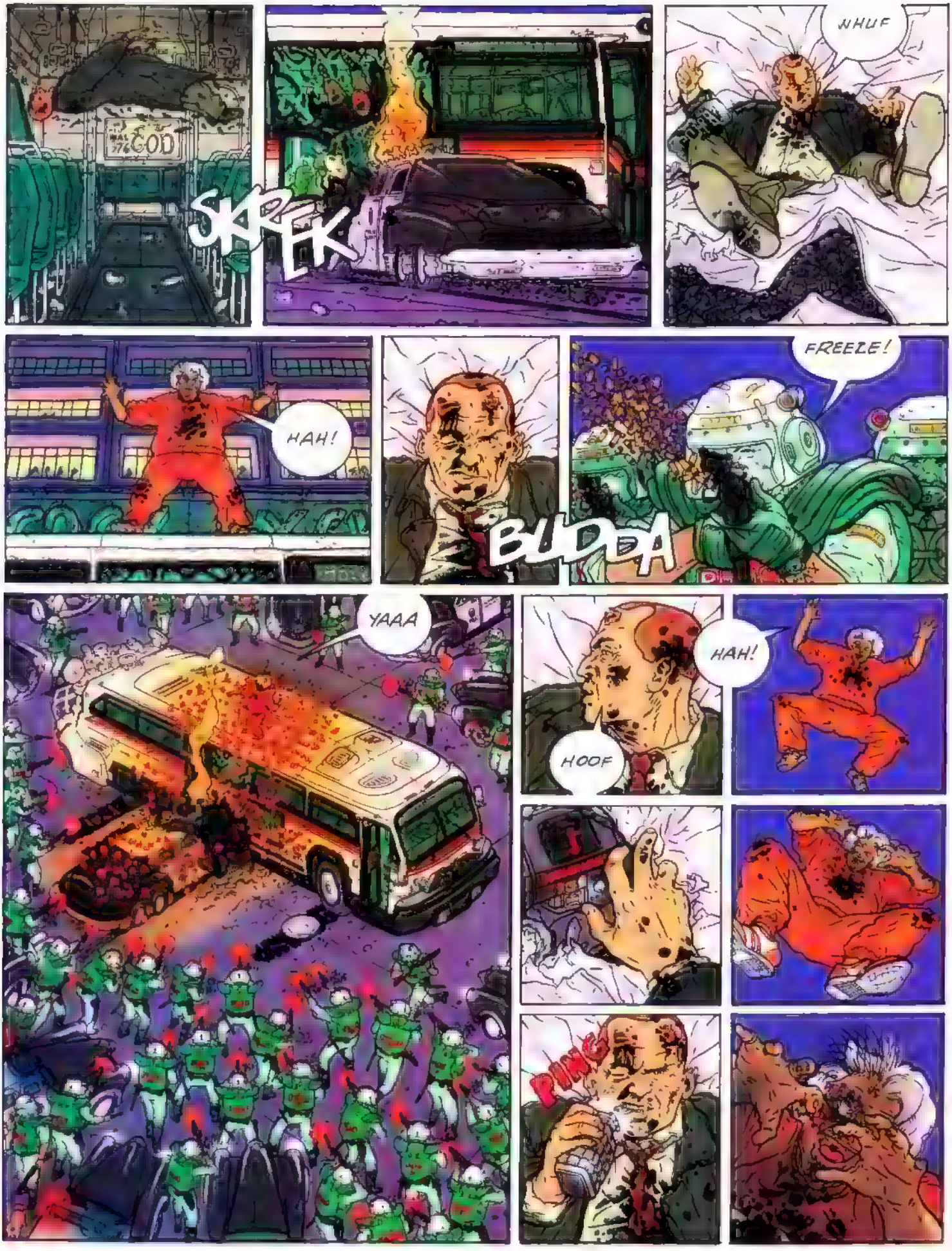


POLICE
FREEZE!

POLICE
POLICE



OOF!
AG!
OOF!
OOF!
NEF
HAH!
OOF!
HAH!
OOF!
HAH!
OOF!
HAH!
URG
GEH
OOF
HAH
YAA
HEF
HAH
YAAA


GOD
SKREK
WHUF
HAH!
BUDDA
FREEZE!
YAAA
HAH!
HOOF
PING

SKUK
HURG
SHLUK
TIK
TIK
TIK
FREEZE!

STOCK EXCHANGE
SMASH!
AT LEAST CHRISTIE'S OKAY
YOU'RE AN IDIOT, NIXON

MY
NAME'S
SELTZ.
I'M
A
TAX
COLLECTOR
FREEZE!

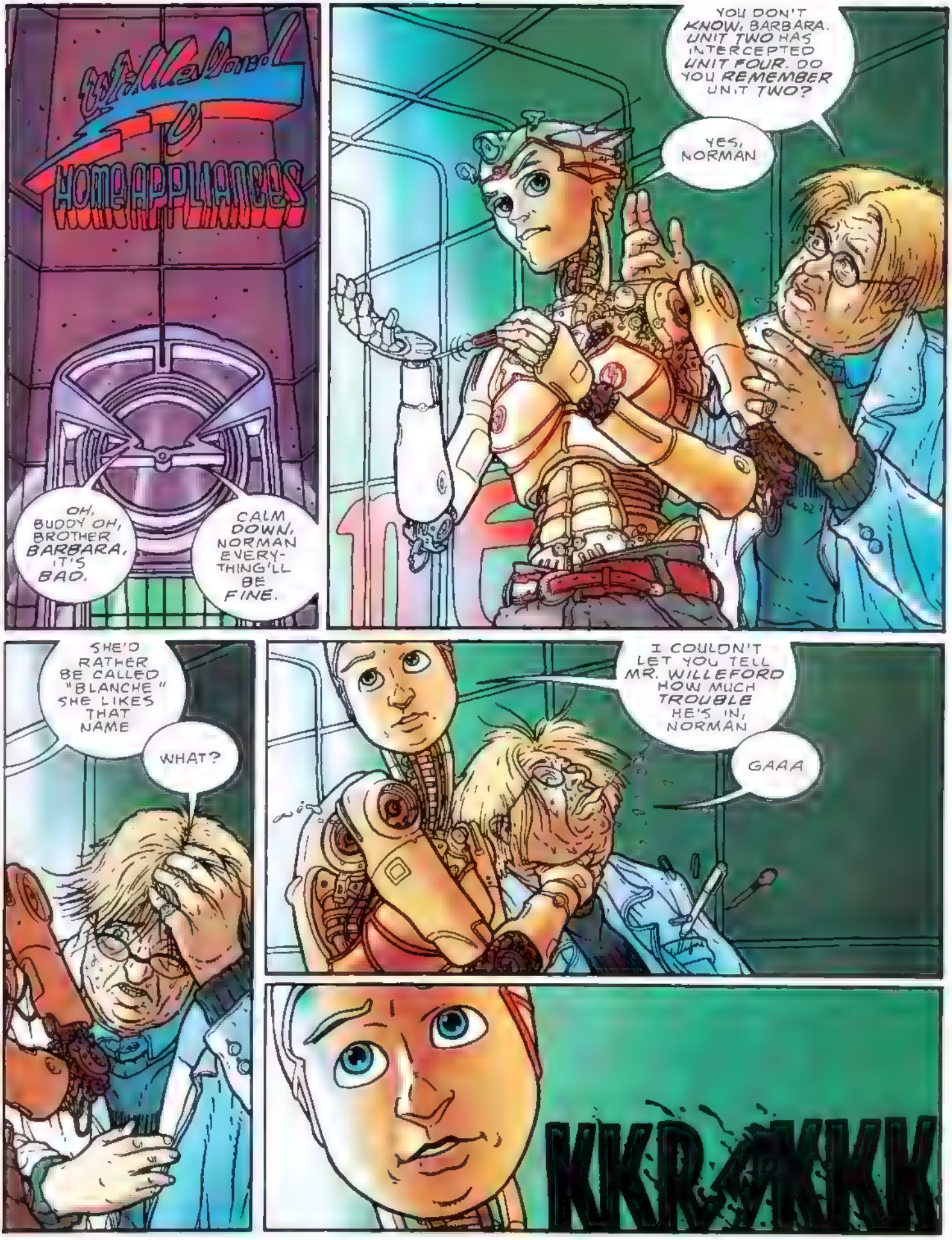
WIFE
"It's not a COWPIE at all!"
COWPIES BAKED
BLACK BOX
New PUSSY MAGNE
TWO KIDS
AAAAA
BURBANK
WUMP

SKEEE
WUMP
COW
WUMP
BEH

BEHEMOTH
42
VARIETY

BEHEMOTH
51

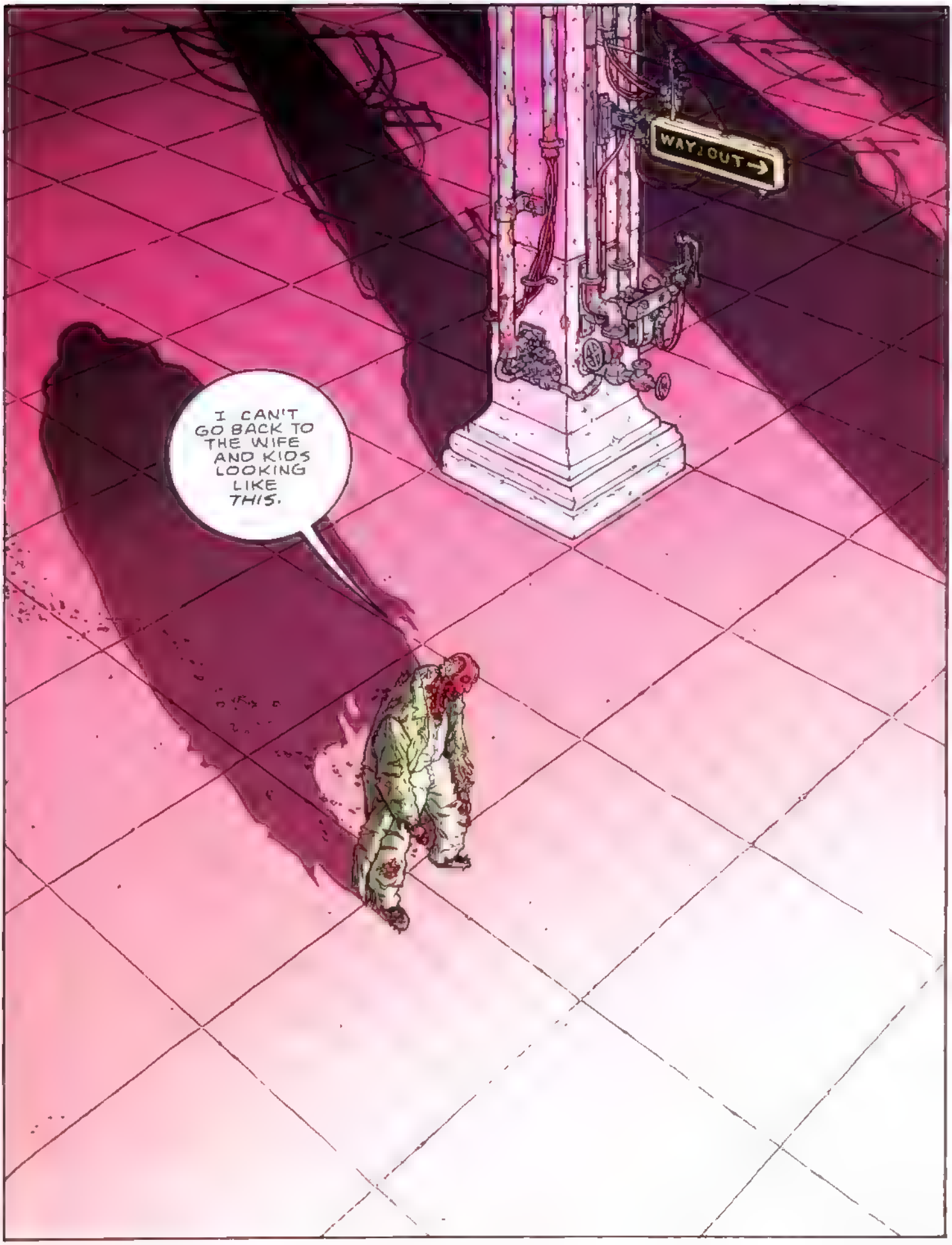
BEHEMOTH
FOOD
BEHEMOTH


WILLEFORD
HOME APPLIANCES
OH, BUDDY OH, BROTHER BARBARA, IT'S BAD.
CALM DOWN, NORMAN EVERY-THING'LL BE FINE.
YOU DON'T KNOW, BARBARA. UNIT TWO HAS INTERCEPTED UNIT FOUR. DO YOU REMEMBER UNIT TWO?
YES, NORMAN
SHE'D RATHER BE CALLED "BLANCHE" SHE LIKES THAT NAME
WHAT?
I COULDN'T LET YOU TELL MR. WILLEFORD HOW MUCH TROUBLE HE'S IN, NORMAN
GAAA
KKRAKKK

I HATE FLESH

NFF
WUMP
HEY! WHAT THE HECK...

WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON? I THOUGHT I WAS A NORMAL GUY!


WAY OUT
I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE WIFE AND KIDS LOOKING LIKE THIS.

Andrew Dorfman
Box 24
Wiarton, Ontario
Canada N0H 2I0

Dear Frank and Geof

WOW!!! What an issue. Incred ble! Stupendous! Am I overdoing it a little bit? Who cares—this is, w thout a doubt, one of the best comics I have ever read. A little pricey, but worth every penny.

Frank, it s great to see you doing what you do best. Geof, I'd like to know, have you done any other material? I can't express how impressed I am. The art is fabulous—especially the guy spittin' out his teeth on the cover.

I also found the world the story is set in very interesting, something like the 1950s merged with the future of *Blade Runner*. I love the "cluttered" look. Don t lose it. And the writing is great.

Now, I'm having trouble deciding whether Nixon/Se ts is a robot or not. At the end you seem to imply that he is, but if he's a robot, he shouldn t have been affected by the drugs that were injected into h m. And, if he s human he couldn't have survived the collision with the car. He could be a cyborg with human skin, heart, and brain. Please tell me.

Oh, by the way, the "Jesus Crysler" was a nice touch.

Well, Andrew, considering that most of the advance promotional material for the series stated that, "Hard Boiled is reality through the eyes of a psychotic cyborg," I'd say cyborg is a safe bet.

The most abundant supply of Geof s previous work can be found in the French album, Darrow, Comics and Stories, published by the now defunct Aedena. He also pencilled the City of Fire *portfolio which was inked and colored by Moebius. Good luck finding either. Easier to locate would be last year's* Best of Dark Horse Presents *collection which contains a nine-page story featuring Darrow s own character, Burbon Thret.*

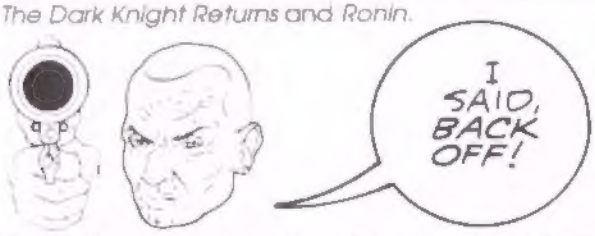
Jan C. Childress
82 Pierrepont St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Frank M ller has come to be known for his thoughtful original and ntelligent work. And Dark Horse has earned a reputation for turning out such work. It comes, then, as

a big surprise and a heart-felt disappointment to find *Hard Boiled* falling short of the standards of both.

Hard Boiled #1 was a thoughtless, depraved yarn. That alone accounts for it being unoriginal. Dark Horse, in publishing this story, makes a strong case for the need for the comics industry to police itself more closely. *Hard Boiled* should have clearly been labelled "For Adults Only."

Hard Boiled is a sad testimony to an independent publisher that has been impressively making headway on the industry's number two publisher. It is also a shameful display of the talents of the man who wrote such classics as *The Dark Knight Returns* and *Ronin*.



The public was kept waiting a long time for *Hard Boiled*. Considering the product, you could have delayed this for another 90 years, not days.

Your opinions on Hard Boiled *are, of course, your own. No explanation or rebuttal from me is likely to change them. On the subject of labelling, however, I can't help but disagree with your "solution" to adult material appearing in comics. Why should the medium of comics be regulated to telling only children's stories? With the advent of comics dealing with more mature subject-matter, readers who a decade ago would have left the medium are continuing to buy and read comics. These older readers now make up a substantial portion of the overall readership, and there is little sign that they are preparing to abandon comics as a form of entertainment. Rather than plaster comics with warning labels, wouldn't it make more sense to educate the public that not all comics—just as not all books or movies—are intended for children?*

And, just for the record, when Hard Boiled *is solicited, the material given to your comics retailer reads, "Contains mature themes and sexually explicit material. Not for children."*

Sultan Stewart
1301 Quincy St. NW
Washington, DC 20011

Let me begin by saying "thank you" for *Hard Boiled*. You were right. Nothing had prepared me for it. I have four copies of #1, and want more.

The artwork is stupendous; nothing I've read has displayed such talent. This book is so weird and unorthodox I can't seem to stop reading this one issue. Every time I go to the store, I still pick it up. It really is an incredible comics; standing out far from any other. And I thought every idea had been used already.

This would seem to be one beautiful year for Dark Horse Comics.

One more thing: if you have not already decided to do so, please consider making this book an ongoing series in the same format. Please.

What, and give Frank and Geof both heart attacks? As it is, the scheduled three issues will bring the story to a satisfying close, and leave everyone—the readers included—panting from exhilaration and exhaustion. And, hey, how 'bout the issue you hold in your hands? Thirteen extra pages of story!

Lyn Anderson
POB 51751
Raleigh, NC 27609

I have just finished the first issue of *Hard Boiled* and felt compelled to write you a letter with my comments. Overall, I liked the story and the art. I always find Frank's stories thought-provoking and on a different level than your average comic book story. This is the first time I've seen Geof's artwork, and I thought it captured a lot of emotions, as well as being very detailed.

As with anything you do, there should be some constructive criticism. I really don't like the combination of sex and violence. On pages 25 and 26, you have panels of a woman undressing and a violent gunfight going on simultaneously. These are probably only dream images of Nixon in his surgical dream state, but the two totally different acts being associated with one another bothers me.

On pages 30 and 31, you have a double-page spread of a cityscape. On one of the billboards is an ad for "Pup Boys." I am an assistant manager for Pep Boys, and those figures on the building look strangely like Manny, Moe and Jack—with some ear modifications. I hope this was done in jest, and not as a result of an unhappy trip to Pep Boys.

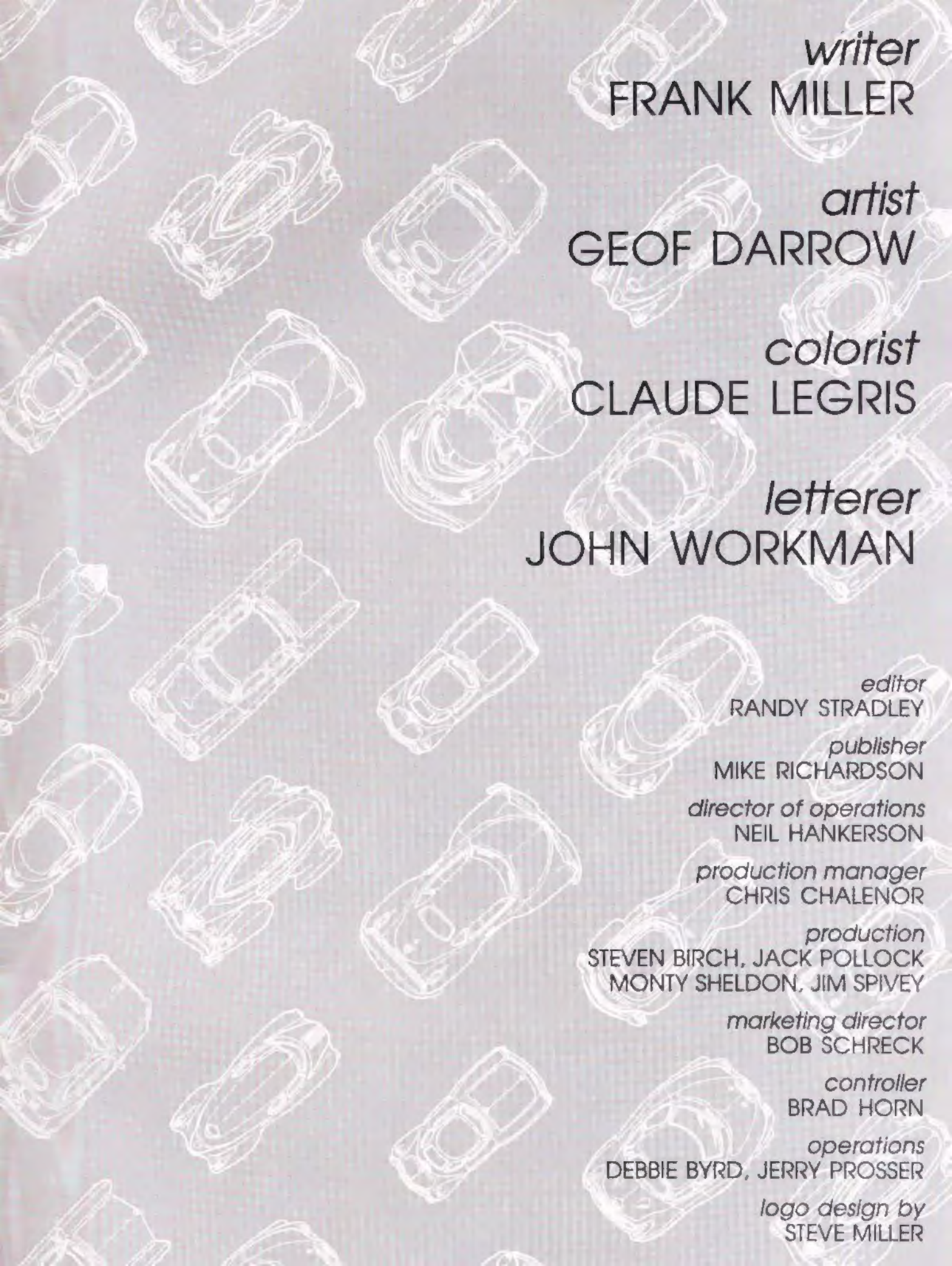
Geof Darrow responds: I have nothing but the utmost respect for Manny, Moe and Jack, and the men and women who serve them.

Geof also says that the reader who writes what Geof judges to be the "best letter" will win an original drawing!

More next issue!

—Randy

TERMI AL
GOOD FOOD
Coca-Cola
TERMINAL



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controller
BRAD HORN

operations
DEBBIE BYRD, JERRY PROSSER

logo design by
STEVE MILLER

"...superbly written and stunningly drawn."
—*Comics Buyer's Guide*